(ख) सरकार ने साहसिक, अवकाश और समुद्र तटीय पर्यटन हेतु पर्यटक केन्द्रों का विकास करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से एक योजना शुरू की है। अवकाश गन्तव्य के रूप में भारत की छवि सुधारने के लिए वर्ष 1991 को "भारत पर्यटन वर्ष" भी घोषित किया गया है ।

IDBI Assistance for the Setting up of Industries in Madhya Pradesh

3478. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India is exploring possibilities of encouraging industries in the backward regions in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether IDBI has since identified the industries to be set up in the 'No Industry Districts' of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it extends concessional financial assistance for all new viable projects in notified backward areas and attaches high priority to dispersal of industries and efficient development of backward areas. IDBI, jointly with Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), commissioned during 1982-86 'No Industry District (NID) Survey' to identify industrial opportunities in 44 NIDs in various States. The study has resulted in identifying 122 projects involving capital investment of Rs. 363 crore with employment potential for 20,000 persons.

IDBI have further reported that of the total 18 NIDs declared in Madhya Pradesh 11 districts were covered under NID Survey. These surveys have enabled identification of 30 projects including those relating to Aluminium Pressure Die Castings, Auto Leaf Springs, Steel Forgings, Hydrogenated, Dehyderated and Medicinal Castor Oil, Poly-propyline Collapsible Tubes, Coal Chemical Complex, etc.

Demand for Sales Tax Exemption by T. V. Picture Tube Manufacturers in Punjab

3479. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the television picture tube manufacturers in Punjab have demanded sales tax exemption on their products as is being done in other neighbouring States;

(b) whether the manufacturers have urged Central Government several times to grant exemption of sales tax on TV tubes;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not granting such permission; and

(d) by when Government propose to take a decision in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (d) Sales tax is a State subject under the Constitution and the State Governments alone have the powers to grant concession/remission from levy of sales tax. Since Central Government do not have any powers to grant sales tax exemption on any product, all such references are passed on to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Meeting between Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Ambassador for Improvement of International Textile Market

3480. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting was held between the representatives of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Ambassador to India in February this year;

(b) whether some suggestions were made thereat for improving international textile market of the country;

(c) whether this meeting also gave indication to open new avenues for export of garments in a large scale;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to implement the suggestions made at the meeting; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce organised a Workshop on Indo-U.S. Textile Trade on 30th January, 1990 in which U.S. Ambassador to India, among others, was present. However, no action point or recommendations have been received by the Government from the organisation.

Import of Spices and Rubber

3481. SHRI SYED SIBTEY KAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any requests to reconsider the Export/Import Policy in regard to the import of spices and rubber;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main points in the representations were that the new Import & Exports Policy in respect of agricultural and plantation products—coconut oil, copra, natural rubber, coir yarn, cocoa and spices would have adverse effects on the farmers of Kerala.

(c) There has been no change in the new Import & Export Policy for the above mentioned items except for nutmeg and mace. Import of these two items which was earlier allowed under Open General Licence by all persons for stock & sale has been tightened by bringing them into the licens-able category in the new Import & Export Policy.

Domestic and Foreign Operations of Indian Banks

3482. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic operations of the Indian banks are groaning under huge bad debts and non-performing assets and that their foreign operations also appear to be paralysed;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the operations of Indian banks in the United States are very bad; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the banks in Indian and abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (d) The risk of certain debts going bad is inherent in the nature of operations of all commercial banks including nationalised banks. Government and Reserve Bank of India have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their machinery for credit appraisal and for exercising effective supervision and control over the advances to ensure proper end-use of funds lent. Banks have also been advised to take strict action against the officials where advances are found to have become sticky due to their negligence, inefficiency or suspected collusion on their part with unscrupulous borrowers. Reserve Bank of India has also advised the banks in November, 1985 to introduce a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances and accordingly classify them in various distinct categories. This is expected to facilitate close monitoring of sticky advances by banks and eventually reduce the incidence of bad debts.

The Indian banks having foreign branches are by and large of small size by inter-national standards and their business is usually limited to the Indian ethnic community. At present 3 banks are operating 7 banches in the United State of America. These branches have been fac-